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ABSTRACT

Examination of enrollment in 12 colleges in the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area reveals that the status of black men in metropolitan Atlanta's public higher education institutions has deteriorated seriously since 1978 by every standard used in measuring opportunity for college education. The total number of blacks enrolled declined by 2.5 percent from 1980 to 1985; the number of black men enrolled in four-year colleges fell 4.5 percent, and the number in junior colleges fell by 1 percent. Of all racial and ethnic groups of both genders, only black men had a drop in enrollment during the first half of the 1980s. Black males were the group least likely to apply to college, the least likely to be accepted, and the least likely, if accepted, to enroll. Even among those who did enroll, a high and increasing number of black men failed to advance through college at a normal rate or to complete their degrees. Between 1978 and 1986, the percentage unable to finish a year of credits in a year on campus, and the percentage dropping out of college, rose substantially. Fewer black males were awarded Bachelor's degrees in 1985 than in 1978; the number receiving degrees dropped by one-sixth, with the largest decline occurring between 1980 and 1985. In addition to the immediate implications for the men themselves, the declining access of black males to higher education will have long-term economic, political, and social consequences for society. Data are presented on 22 tables. An appendix provides an additional 16 tables of data. (BJV)

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BLACK MEN: MISSING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

June O. Patton

WORKING PAPER NO. 10

METROPOLITAN OPPORTUNITY PROJECT
University of Chicago

Gary Orfield, Director
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BLACK MEN: MISSING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

June O. Patton

Introduction

The status of black males in metropolitan Atlanta's public higher education institutions has deteriorated seriously since 1978 by every standard used in measuring opportunity for college education. Detailed state and federal data covering all the two-year and four-year public colleges in the metropolitan area show that the total number of black men enrolled fell from 1978 to 1985. (The year 1978 is used as the beginning point for comparisons because racial data prior to that time is regarded as unreliable by state officials.)

The number of blacks enrolled at baccalaureate degree granting institutions in the Atlanta metropolitan area declined by 2.5% between 1980 and 1985. The decrease was due exclusively to a drop in black male enrollment. During this period, the number of black men attending four-year colleges fell 4.5% and their enrollment at junior colleges dropped by 1%. Of all racial and ethnic groups of both genders, only black men had a drop in enrollment during the first half of the 1980s.

Black males were the group least likely to apply to college, the least likely to be accepted, and the least likely, if accepted, to enroll. Even among those who did enroll, a high and increasing number of black men failed to advance through college

at a normal rate or to complete their degrees. Between 1978 and 1986, the percentage unable to finish a year of credits in a year on campus and the percentage dropping out of college rose substantially.

Fewer black males were awarded Bachelor's degrees in 1985 than in 1978. The number of black men receiving degrees dropped by one-sixth (16.8%), with the largest decline occurring between 1980 and 1985. Black men were the only group to receive fewer degrees in 1985 than at the beginning of the decade.

The declining access of black males to higher education is a cause for serious concern. Our findings are distressing not only because of the possible immediate implications for the men themselves but also because of the probable long-term economic, social, and political consequences for society. Insightful scholars have been arguing for years that the most serious cause of the misery in the ghetto has been the shockingly high jobless rate among young black men. The relationship between education and economic success, underemployment, and unemployment among black men has been well established.

Owing to job discrimination and other factors, an alarming percentage of black male college graduates are jobless, but men with degrees are much less likely to be unemployed. A black man with a college education is substantially more likely to be unemployed than his white counterpart. On the other hand, black male dropouts are much more likely to be unemployed and no longer even looking for work. Labor force participation for young black

male dropouts has dropped severely, falling from 93% to 81% from 1960 to 1980. Of the dropouts who were in the labor market at the time of the 1980 Census, the black jobless rate for dropouts was 15% in the North and West and 9% in the South. The gap between black males and their white counterparts grew in all regions (USCCR, 1986: pp. 79, 154). (GARY: IS THAT OCR OR CCR?) Among adult black men in 1985, the median income for high school dropouts was $10,800; for high school graduates without college it was $14,700; for college graduates, meanwhile, median income was $23,400 (Census Bureau, Money Income, 1987: Table 35). Although the median income of black male college graduates was less than four-fifths that of their white counterparts, they were obviously vastly better off than those without college training (Ibid.).

The high unemployment rate and over representation of black men in menial, dead-end, low-paying jobs have contributed greatly to the current "Crisis of the Black Family." In his research on inner-city blacks, William J. Wilson found a connection between the sagging economic status of black men and the declining marriage rates of black women. It is understandable that in the absence of jobs and economic stability, many black men are unwilling to assume the responsibility of a wife and family. By the same token, because of low wages, instability, and unemployment among black men, an increasing number of black women choose to remain single (Wilson, 1987).

Other researchers have found a direct correspondence between

the unemployment level among men and marital instability, female-headed families, and illegitimate births. Many scholars argue that the disproportionate amount of street crime, drug addiction, violence, and other anti-social behavior attributed to black males result, in part, from unemployment. The consequences of unemployment among black men can not be overstated or ignored. Education reduces unemployment and greatly increases the possibility of supporting a family.

The shift of the urban economy from production to service industries has eliminated many relatively well-paying low-skill jobs for men. Because black males were over represented in "smoke-stack" industries, the employment decline in this area proved especially deleterious to them. The new jobs require a higher level of training and education to obtain a decent income. The job training study conducted for this project shows very serious employment problems for black men in metropolitan Atlanta despite the current economic boom, and finds very little job training available for black men lacking basic skills (Slessarev, 1987).

As a result of the shrinkage of the goods producing sector, the number of jobs requiring less than a high school degree has plunged. Between 1980 and 1985, Georgia experienced a 27% growth rate in new jobs, 79% of which were in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Studies indicate, however, that much of this growth has occurred in occupations requiring higher education. When John Kasarda examined the expanding labor market in the city of

Atlanta for the period 1970-1984, he found that the number of jobs requiring less than a high school education declined by 9,000, but 37,000 positions requiring some higher education were created (Kasarda, 1986).

In recent years, the large number of baby boomers and white women with more education entering the work force has permitted employers to demand higher educational requirements in selecting employees. The B.A. degree is rapidly replacing the high school diploma as the minimum prerequisite for a job paying a wage adequate to support a family. If the current trend of declining access to college continues, the absence of college degrees will serve as yet another barrier to mobility for black men. This is a key explanation for the poverty of black families, a very large proportion of which are headed by women. Given the nature of the job market, it is difficult to imagine any way in which the number of stable two-parent black families could increase substantially without an increase in the education of black men.

This report examines the extent to which black males in metropolitan Atlanta have real access to higher education, real choice in the selection of institutions, and the opportunity to remain in college and graduate in a timely fashion. The data shows great cause for concern. (GARY/JUNE: I THINK THIS PARAGRAPH NEEDS MORE PUNCH.....)

The Data. This report first studies the public colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. Because they were required to file reports with the Office of Civil Rights at the

U.S. Department of Education (OCR), these schools have produced an extraordinary amount of data on the situation of black men. Public colleges in Georgia have been under a plan for increased minority enrollment and desegregation since a court order in the mid-1970s. Much of this study is based on thousands of pages of statistics obtained from the OCR in response to a request under the Federal Freedom of Information Act. Additional data, including special computations for the 1986-87 academic year, was obtained from the state university system, which directs all public colleges in the state. The second part of this study is based on data for all colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. This data was computed from the national HEGIS tapes of the U.S. Department of Education and ends in the 1984 academic year.

JUNE/GARY: HELP WITH THIS PARAGRAPH

This study covers twelve colleges in the Atlanta metropolitan area. DeKalb College? has been omitted because it entered the university system in 1986 and the DeKalb data was received too late for inclusion in the statistical analysis. The six public schools can be separated into two groups, urban and suburban. The urban public schools are Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University (both four-year schools), and Atlanta Junior College (a two-year, predominantly black school). The suburban public institutions are Kennesaw College (which became a four-year school in 1978), Southern Technical

Institute (a four-year school), and Clayton Junior College (a two-year school). The six private schools are Morehouse College (an all-male school), Clark College, and Morris Brown College (all traditionally black schools), and Emory University, Oglethorpe College, and the Atlanta campus of Mercer University (all traditionally white).

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This is not a study of the root causes of the decline of black men in college. The many causes range from the overall situation of the black community to the unequal treatment of black boys from their first years in the educational system. Previous research has shown that young black boys are the group most negatively perceived by school teachers, black as well as white, partly because of styles of behavior they learn in play that are seen as disruptive and threatening by many teachers. Because of the consistently negative academic experience, black males seek self-esteem outside of the school. In addition, when black boys gain independence from their mothers, the absence of a father figure in the home tends to result in reliance on values learned from their peers. They receive little encouragement from their community and their family to stay in school, and many face a neighborhood environment in which crime, drugs, and negative behavior are common. Many grow up in an atmosphere of serious physical threat. One recent study of the Washington, D.C. public schools found that students working on academic subjects were accused by peers of "acting white" and were put under pressure to

conform with anti-school attitudes. This pressure is worse on boys than on girls. Many black scholars point to the fact that since black high school graduates still experience serious unemployment, students are uncertain about the rewards they will receive if they conform to the school's norms.

In communities with unsuccessful graduates and rich drug pushers, the temptation to try for immediate rewards can be great. The pressures of gang membership in areas where it is unsafe not to be in a gang are overwhelmingly against attending school, and gang members generally view crime as an acceptable vocation. We believe this dangerous and deteriorating situation must be examined in depth, and that leading scholars and public policy makers must mobilize to address these problems.

I. Access to Public Colleges

Compared to whites and black women, black men are least likely to apply to state colleges. Those who do apply have less of a chance of being accepted or enrolling if admitted. The number of black males applying to state colleges and universities in metropolitan Atlanta dropped 23.5% between 1978 and 1983. A major reduction (50.7%) in the number of out-of-state applications was responsible for much of this decline.

Figure 1 shows the number of applications received by two-year and four-year state colleges and universities in metropolitan Atlanta from recent high school graduates who were applying to college for the first time by racial background and

gender. In spite of an upturn in 1984, fewer black men applied to state colleges in metropolitan Atlanta in 1985-86 than had in 1978-79. The earlier application level was not surpassed until the 1986-87 academic year. Over the past nine years, the number of black male applicants increased 8%. This growth rate was drastically lower than 79% and 56% gains registered by white and black women respectively, and significantly less than the 11% achieved by white men. [insert Figure 1]

Geographic Origins of Applicants and Acceptance Rates

Applications from Georgia black men increased substantially while out of state applications plummeted. Both the decline in out-of-state applications and the increase of those within the state may reflect the narrowing of college choices of both Georgians and out-of-state black students as the cost of college rose far more rapidly than incomes or financial aid in the 1980s. Unfortunately, the rising number of Georgia applicants was offset by a falling acceptance rate. The acceptance rate for black males from Georgia declined by 11.8% between 1978 and 1986 (see Table 1).

Table 1

Applications From Black Males To Two- and Four-Year Colleges
and
Percentage of Those Accepted by Geographic Origin

	Out of State		From Georgia	
	Applied	%Accepted	Applied	%Accepted
1978-79	558	38.9%	599	65.1%
1980-81	475	33.5	578	56.4
1982-83	275	34.5	610	59.8
1984-85	206	46.0	894	54.1
1985-86	246	44.7	867	58.5
1986-87	311	51.4	935	57.4

Although the acceptance rate for black Georgia males has improved since 1984, it is lower than it was in 1978. The acceptance rate has yet to achieve its 1982-83 level, and appears to be declining. Moreover, the acceptance rate for both in-state and out-of-state black men has been consistently lower than that of other groups. The percentage of all black male applicants accepted by state institutions of higher education fluctuated between 1978 and 1985 ending up about where it began. Black men retain the distinction of being least likely to be admitted to state colleges.

Acceptance Rates by Race and Gender

Between 1978 and 1986, the acceptance rate for blacks who were recent high school graduates was consistently lower than that for whites, and females were more likely to be accepted than

males. Although black women have had a higher acceptance rate than black men, the gap between them steadily decreased after 1980, achieving approximate parity in 1985. Black women were the only group of either race or gender to experience a drop in their acceptance rate during this period. From 1978 to 1986, the acceptance rate among white women increased 5% and that of white men by 8%. The end result was a widening of the gap between the acceptance rate for whites and that for blacks. Although the acceptance rate for black males improved from 1984-1986, it remains lower than that of other groups (see Figure 2). (insert figure 2)

Applications to Public Two-year Colleges

An increasing number of black males seeking admission to public colleges apply to two-year institutions. Between 1978 and 1985, the number of applications from black men to junior colleges more than doubled, and the proportion of black males in the application pool received by two-year institutions increased by 21.3% (see Table 2). This shift towards two-year colleges was in keeping with a general trend among blacks, but the movement was most evident among black men. This trend is disturbing in light of the national evidence showing the small number of students at two-year colleges who transfer and obtain B.A. degrees. A detailed study of community colleges in metropolitan Chicago, for example, showed that the transfer rate was lowest in central city minority two-year colleges. Although large numbers

of students enter two-year colleges planning to get B.A. degrees, only a small minority ever succeed.

Although black women attempting to enroll in state schools are twice as likely as white women to apply to junior colleges, black men are more than four times more likely to do so than their white counterparts. Table 2 shows the percentage of college applications submitted by black and white men and women to public two-year institutions by recent high school graduates.

Table 2

Percentage of College Applications from
Recent High School Graduates Submitted to Public Two-Year Colleges

	Black Females	Black Males	White Males	White Females
1978-79	27.0%	15.4%	2.7%	12.6%
1980-81	20.7	21.7	7.6	24.8
1982-83	31.1	20.7	8.5	26.2
1984-85	45.4	36.7	7.7	20.2
1985-86	31.5	33.2	7.4	19.6
1986-87	36.8	30.0	7.0	18.6

Between 1978 and 1982, black males had a higher acceptance rate at two-year public colleges than at public four-year institutions. From 1978 to 1984, however, the reported rate of acceptance for black males at junior colleges dropped 39.8%. During the same period, the acceptance rate improved for the shrinking proportion of black men applying to B.A. granting institutions. In 1985 and 1986, the junior colleges acceptance

rate for black men became relatively more favorable (see Figure 3). [insert Figure 3?]

With the exception of 1978-79, black males have had a lower acceptance rate than other groups. The vast majority of black males who apply to two-year public colleges in metropolitan Atlanta seek admission to Atlanta Junior College, an overwhelmingly black institution located in the city. While the acceptance rate of black males has dropped significantly at this urban institution, it has been increasing at Clayton, the predominately white suburban junior college. The black male acceptance rate at Atlanta Junior College dropped 48% between 1978 and 1984. Although the urban school's acceptance record improved from 1985 to 1987, it continues to be lower than that of the suburban institution. Table 3 shows the changing acceptance rate of black males at both the suburban and urban two-year colleges. The Atlanta situation is different from that of many other large metropolitan areas that have much larger community college systems providing open enrollment to virtually all interested students. The problem is not caused by the desire of the college to exclude students. In fact, like many colleges serving inner city students, Atlanta J.C. has had exactly the opposite problem in recent years. It needs students but its drawing area is limited to the city; many city high schools, according to college officials, are not producing as many students ready for college. Georgia differs from many states in requiring the SAT, a national standardized test, and setting minimum standards for junior

college admission. This requirement excludes many students who might wish to obtain a college education. Suburban junior colleges are more likely to receive their applications from stronger high schools.

Table 3

Acceptance Rate for Black Males at Suburban and Urban Two-Year State Colleges in Atlanta Metropolitan Area

	Suburban	Urban
1978-79	53.3%	92.0%
1980-81	61.8	77.8
1982-83	61.9	75.9
1984-85	100.0	43.9
1985-86	76.8	53.8
1986-87	66.7	59.5

Application - Acceptance Rates at Public Four-year Institutions

Black men who applied to the state's four-year public colleges were increasingly likely to be admitted but this trend was deceptive because the number applying was falling so rapidly. While the acceptance rate for black men at public four-year institutions increased by 9% between 1978 and 1985, the number of black males applying fell 29%. Most of this decline resulted from a sharp drop in the number of applications from black men to Georgia Institute of Technology; applications to Tech decreased by 62.3%. In 1986, Georgia Tech received only half as many applications as it did eight years earlier. Although the number

of applications increased slightly since the low point in 1984, the 1986 level was still below that recorded between 1978 and 1983.

The number of black men applying to Kennesaw College has been small, but it steadily increased until 1986 when it dropped slightly. Following a low of two in 1978, black male applications to Kennesaw rose to 13 by 1980, and grew at an average rate of two students per year thereafter. At the other public four-year institutions, the number of black males applying has fluctuated but show a general upward trend, except at Southern Tech, where the trend has been downward since 1984.

From 1978 to 1980, Southern Tech had the highest acceptance rate for black males among public four-year schools, ranging from 81% in 1978 to 84.6% in 1980. Because of a 37% drop in the acceptance rate at Southern Tech and a 43.9% increase in the rate at Kennesaw, the latter school assumed leadership in the area in 1982. The black male acceptance rate at Kennesaw College has been the highest since 1982, but the school receives few applications.

Between 1985 and 1986 the acceptance rate increased at Southern Tech and Georgia State University, but declined at Georgia Tech and Kennesaw. The overall result was a slight drop in the black male acceptance rate in the most recent reported period.

Acceptance/Enrollment Rates

Of the students who applied and were accepted by public

colleges, black males were least likely to enroll. On the average, between 1978 and 1986, just over half of the black men accepted by state colleges actually matriculated. The enrollment rate for black men from Georgia has been consistently higher than that of out-of-state males.

Although the acceptance/enrollment rate for black men was slightly higher than that for black women for two years (1978-79 and 1984-85), and above the white rate for one year (1982-83), their rate has generally been the lowest. Since 1982, the acceptance/enrollment rate for both black men and women has dropped over one-fifth, with the loss among black males being the greatest. The rate for black males, in fact, has steadily declined since 1982 (see Table 4).

Table 4

Acceptance/Enrollment Rates of Recent High School Graduates at Two- and Four-year State Colleges by Race and Gender

	Black Males	Black Females	White Males	White Females
1978-79	54.9%	54.8%	55.8%	57.1%
1980-81	54.0	57.5	58.2	71.4
1982-83	72.8	73.1	64.3	71.0
1984-85	57.5	55.6	60.4	66.9
1985-86	56.0	57.8	61.7	67.9
1986-87	50.8	51.7	58.1	62.0

Black males not only show the lowest fraction of those admitted who actually enroll but, during the eight years studied

here, the gap between them and other groups has increased. Table 5 shows the acceptance/enrollment rate for black men and the difference between their rate and that of black women and whites. Little difference appears in the rate between male and female blacks, but one can see major shifts in the rates for whites.

Table 5

The Percentage of Black Males Accepted by Colleges Who Actual Enroll and The Black Male Acceptance/Enrollment Ratio as Compared with Other Groups, 1978-1976

	Black Males	Black Females	White Males	White Females
1978-79	54.9%	-.1%	+0.9%	+ 2.2%
1980-81	54.0	+3.5	+4.2	+17.2
1982-83	72.8	+0.3	-8.5	-1.8
1983-84	57.5	-1.9	+2.9	+8.8
1985-86	56.0	+1.8	+5.7	+11.9
1986-87	50.8	+0.9	+7.3	+11.2

Although the number of black males accepted by two-year public institutions increased between 1978 and 1985, the proportion enrolling dropped almost 25%. The converse was true at public four-year colleges. The number of black men accepted dropped by 15% between 1978 and 1985, but the fraction of those accepted who actually enrolled climbed by 14%. A higher proportion of a declining pool of black men who were admitted were enrolling.

The acceptance/enrollment rate for black males at public

two-year schools has been extremely volatile, rising and falling sharply. There was a 4% increase in 1986-87. On the other hand, the acceptance/enrollment rate for black males at public four-year colleges has shown clear long-term trends. From 1978 through 1983, it steadily increased, but has constantly dropped since 1984. As a result of this decline, the acceptance/enrollment rate of black males at four-year colleges in 1986 was only .6% higher than it had been in 1978.

The acceptance/enrollment rate for black men at two-year public schools is one of the few categories in which black males do not now occupy the bottom rung. They held that position until 1984, when it was relinquished to black women. Even a smaller percentage of black women admitted to these colleges begin study. In light of the fact that few junior college students graduate and/or continue their studies to completion,however, this is a dubious "distinction" (see Table 6).

Table 6

Acceptance/Enrollment Rates For Recent High School Graduates at Public Two-Year Colleges by Race and Gender

	Black Males	Black Females	White Males	White Females
1978-79	72.2%	63.1%	67.2%	52.4%
1980-81	46.5	49.7	71.6	76.1
1982-83	92.5	83.2	83.4	78.1
1984-85	47.5	46.2	82.7	78.1
1985-86	50.9	47.6	77.8	71.0
1986-87	53.7	50.7	81.0	75.4

Acceptance/Enrollment Rates at Public Four-year Colleges

The number of admitted black men actually enrolling at public four-year colleges rose 16 percentage points from 1978 to 1982, surpassing that of white males between 1980 and 1982. Since then, however, it has steadily declined. The 1986 rate was less than 1 percent above the low level recorded eight years earlier. Figure 5 shows the acceptance/enrollment rates at public four-year institutions [insert Figure 5].

Summary: Public Colleges. Black men were least likely to apply, be accepted, or enroll in public colleges. One result of this has been a declining enrollment of black males and a deteriorating record for those who do enroll at state-supported institutions of higher learning in metropolitan Atlanta. Moreover, this downward trend in black male enrollment has not been confined to public institutions, as later sections will show.

II. Undergraduate Enrollment Trends

Public and Private Colleges

Between 1975 and 1984, black enrollment at all public and private colleges in metropolitan Atlanta rose by 19.8%, but the rate of increase slowed after 1978 and stalled during the first five years of the 1980s. The number of blacks attending college increased by 15.5% from 1975 to 1978, and by 3.6% between 1979 and 1980, but by only .0007% from 1980 to 1984. The study of metropolitan enrollment trends by Faith Paul (see Chapter 7) shows that the proportion of black high school seniors going on to college declined significantly while the white portion was rising. Although black enrollment remained relatively stable between 1980 and 1984, the distribution of students changed in a number of important ways.

Traditionally black colleges enrolled fewer students and the public two-year colleges significantly more. ????GARY????

Between 1980 and 1984, black enrollment increased by 24% at public junior colleges and by 3% at state four-year institutions. On the down side, the number of blacks attending all baccalaureate degree granting schools fell 3% during the same period. This decline was produced by a 5% drop in enrollment at private four-year institutions. The private decline was centered in what was once the only significant resource for black higher education in the metropolitan area -- private traditionally black colleges. Those colleges showed a decline of 9% in enrollments between 1980 and 1984. Table 7 shows the number of black students enrolled at all two-year and four-year public and private colleges as well as the number of those students enrolled at private traditionally black schools.

Table 7
Black Enrollment at Two- and Four-Year Public and Private Colleges in Metropolitan Atlanta by Type

	All Colleges	All 4Yr	Public 4	Private 4	TBC*	All 2Yr
1975-76	9801	8573	2501	6072	5859	1228
1978-79	11325	9680	3037	6643	6336	1645
1980-81	11729	10577	3410	7167	6843	1152
1984-85	11738	10309	3520	6789	6256	1429

*traditionally black colleges;
includes Morehouse, Morris Brown, and Clark

Changes in enrollment patterns have resulted in a changing student population at various institutions. The major trends have been toward an increasingly female and/or white student body. Since 1975, the proportion of women in the total enrollment at colleges in metropolitan Atlanta has steadily risen. The proportion of whites in the overall enrollment dropped in the 1970s, but then climbed from 1980 to 1984. Table 8 shows the percentage of women and of whites in the total undergraduate enrollment at public and private two-year and four-year institutions in the Atlanta area.

Table 8

Women and Whites as a Percentage of Total Enrollment at Public Two- and Four-year Colleges

	1975-76	1978-79	1980-81	1984-85
Women	41.2%	43.6%	45.3%	46.9%
Whites	76.1	74.2	73.8	74.5

The enrollment pattern of black males between 1980 and 1984 represented a departure from the general trend among blacks. Shifting and declining enrollment among black men were in part responsible for the major changes in the characteristics of the student bodies. Enrollment gains for blacks in general stalled after 1980, with the exception of public four-year institutions. Black male enrollment declined across the board. Between 1980 and 1984, the number of black men attending four-year colleges fell by 4.5%, and their enrollment at two-year schools dropped by 1.1%. In short, fewer black men but more of all other groups enrolled in college in 1984 than did in 1980. Table 9 shows the number of black males enrolled at two- and four-year public and private colleges as well as the number of those students who attended private traditionally black colleges.

Table 9

Black Male Enrollment at Two- and Four-Year
Public and Private Colleges in Metropolitan Atlanta by Type
in selected years

	All Colleges	All 4Yr	Public 4	Private 4	TBC*	All 2Yr
1975-76	4699	3988	1170	2818	2721	711
1978-79	5284	4519	1393	3126	2962	765
1980-81	5391	4868	1472	3396	3242	523
1984-85	5167	4650	1477	3173	2949	517

*traditionally black colleges; these figures are
included in total private four-year data

Enrollment at Public Four-year Colleges

While the number of black males enrolled at public four-year colleges did not decline between 1980 and 1984, the rate of increase slowed significantly. Their rate of increase was 19% from 1975 to 1978, and 5.7% between 1978 and 1980, but only .003% from 1980 to 1984. In 1984, only five more black males were enrolled in public four-year colleges than had been in 1980. The rate of increase for black men between 1980 and 1984 was substantially lower than that of other groups. The rate of increase for black females was 5.4%, 4.3% for white males, and 15% for white females. As a proportion of the pool of black high school graduates, these numbers represented a substantial decline in the level of access. Figure 6 gives the number of students enrolled at public four-year institutions by race and gender.

[insert Figure 6]

Although black male enrollment increased by 22.1% from 1975

to '979, the rate of increase slowed after 1978, and dropped 4.5% between 1980 and 1984. This decline was a departure from the general trend in male enrollment. White male enrollment increased between 1975 and 1980, and that growth continued through 1984. Table 10 shows the number of males enrolled in both public and private four-year colleges.

Table 10

Male Enrollment at Public and Private Four-year Colleges

	1975-76	1978-79	1980-81	1984-85
Black	3988	4519	4868	4650
Hispanic	123	184	234	324
White/Other	16611	17002	18445	19079
Total	20722	21705	23547	24053

Between 1980 and 1984, the total black enrollment at four-year institutions fell by 2.5%; black men accounted for all of this overall decline. Table 11 shows the number of blacks enrolled at four-year colleges and the percentage change in enrollment.

Table 11

Black Enrollment at Four-Year Colleges
in Metropolitan Atlanta by Gender

	1980	1984	% Change
Males	4868	4650	- 4.5%
Females	5768	5781	+ 0.2
Total	10636	10431	- 1.9

An institution-by-institution analysis of the decline in black male enrollment provides important insights. Among the public four-year schools, the number of black males attending Georgia Institute of Technology rose 55% between 1975 and 1978, slowed to a 2.1% increase from 1979 to 1980, and dropped 8.8% between 1980 and 1984. The same pattern was evident at Georgia State University where the number of black men enrolled increased 5.6% between 1975 and 1978, but declined by 4.1% from 1980 to 1984. On the other hand, the number of black males attending Southern Tech registered a 86.5% increase from 1975 to 1980, and posted a 19.6% gain between 1980 and 1984. During the same period, the number of black males attending Kennesaw College, which was converted from a junior to a senior institution in 1978, increased by almost 200%. Although black male enrollment at Kennesaw increased 195% between 1980 and 1984, the actual number of students was small and did little to overcome the decline at other public colleges. Overall, between 1980 and 1984 the enrollment rate for black men at state supported four-year colleges declined.

Table 12 gives the number of black male undergraduates attending public four-year colleges by institution.

Table 12

Black Male Enrollment at Four-Year Public Colleges by institution

	Georgia Tech	Southern Tech	Georgia State	Kennesaw
1975-76	251	104	815	14
1978-79	390	160	843	17
1980-81	398	194	861	19
1984-85	363	232	826	56

Enrollment at Private Four-year Colleges

The total enrollment at private four-year colleges dropped 1.6% between 1980 and 1984, and the decline in black enrollment accounted for 93% of that loss. At the same time, the decline in black male enrollment was responsible for almost three-fourths (71%) of the decline among blacks at such institutions. Table 13 reports undergraduate enrollment at private four-year institutions by race and gender. The table shows that the total enrollment at private four-year colleges declined by 219 students between 1980 and 1984. Black enrollment declined by 315 students, of which 223 were black males. The drop in black enrollment was partially offset by an increase in white and Hispanic female attendance.

Table 13

Undergraduate Enrollment at Private Four-Year Colleges
In Metropolitan Atlanta by Racial/Ethnic Background and Gender

	Black Males	Black Females	White/Other Males	White/Other Females	Hispanic Males	Hispanic Females
1975-76	2818	3275	2974	2771	26	27
1978-79	3126	3517	3061	3136	43	38
1980-81	3396	3830	3098	3516	61	43
1984-85	3173	3738	3077	3612	58	67

The largest drop in black male enrollment occurred at private four-year institutions, but this decline was due exclusively to falling attendance at traditionally black colleges. Between 1980 and 1984 the number of black men enrolled at the region's most selective white college, Emory University, increased 97% while it rose 12% at Mercer and almost 800%, from a very small base, at Oglethorpe University. Overall, black

male enrollment at private white colleges increased 46% during this period, but the number of new recruits was substantively lower than losses incurred by traditionally black institutions. This produced a 7% overall drop in black male enrollment at private four-year colleges, and was largely responsible for the overall decline in the number of black men enrolled at baccalaureate degree granting schools (see Table 14).

Table 14

Number of Black Males Enrolled at Four-Year Colleges in Metropolitan Atlanta by Type of Institution

	1980	1984	%Change
Public	1472	1477	+ 0.34%
Private T Black	3242	2949	- 9.00
Private T White	154	224	+45.40
Total	4868	4650	- 4.50

Distribution of Undergraduate Enrollment

Table 14 not only shows the declining access of black males to higher education, but also indicates their concentration in certain types of institutions. The percentage of black males enrolled at four-year colleges who attended traditionally black schools declined 3% from 1980 and 1984. This drop resulted more from declining male enrollment at black schools than from growth elsewhere.

Between 1975 and 1984, the overwhelming majority of black males enrolled at private four-year institutions consistently attended traditionally black colleges. They served over 56% of all the black men who enrolled in college and more than 63% of all those at four-year

institutions; traditionally black colleges accounted for no less than 92% of all the black males who attended private four-year schools (see Table 15).

Table 15

Percentage of Black Male Students Attending

Traditionally Black Colleges

	All Colleges	All Four-Year	Private Four-Year
1975-76	57.9%	68.2%	96.6%
1978-79	56.1	65.5	94.8
1980-81	60.0	66.6	95.5
1984-85	57.1	63.4	92.9
'80-'84 change	-2.9%	-3.2%	-2.6%

The importance of private traditionally black colleges in providing black males with access to higher education is self-evident. Between 1975 and 1980, an average of 67% of all black men enrolled in four-year colleges, and 96% of those registered at private four-year institutions in the Atlanta metropolitan area attended three traditionally black private schools: Clark, Morehouse, and Morris Brown. Other institutions are not making up for the decline of these historically significant colleges.

With the exception of Morehouse College (an all-male college discussed below), the enrollment pattern for black males at traditionally black colleges was the reverse of that found at public and private white institutions. Between 1975 and 1984, the number of black males enrolled at both Clark and Morris Brown declined. In addition to a persistently downward enrollment pattern, the rate of decrease at both schools continued to escalate.

Between 1975 and 1978, the number of black males enrolled at Clark College dropped by less than 1% and then increased by 16% from 1978 to 1980 before dropping 19% between 1980 and 1984. Morris Brown did not

experience the brief upturn in enrollment enjoyed by Clark between 1978 and 1980, and its rate of decrease and enrollment losses were even more substantial. Although Morris Brown's enrollment decline began with a modest 3% between 1975 and 1978, it accelerated to 12% from 1978 to 1980 and exploded to 37% between 1980 and 1984. Overall, the number of black men enrolled at Morris Brown College dropped 46% between 1975 and 1984.

The enrollment pattern for black men at Morehouse College was similar to that at public four-year institutions. The number of black males attending Morehouse steadily climbed, increasing 19% between 1975 and 1978, but the rate of increase slowed to 16% from 1978-1980, but increased 3.6% between 1980 and 1984. Morehouse, however, is an institution with a national and international reputation whose student body is largely from outside Georgia; its relatively healthy enrollment of black men says very little about college access for men from the Atlanta area.

Table 16 shows the number of black males enrolled at traditionally black colleges by institution, the percentage of males of the total enrollment, and the percentage of change in males enrolled from 1980 to 1984.

Table 16
Black Male Enrollment at Traditionally Black Colleges

	Clark	%	Morehouse	%	Morris Brown	%
1975-76	612	35.5%	1378	100%	731	48.1%
1978-79	611	33.8	1640	100	711	43.2
1980-81	709	33.7%	1907	100	626	39.0
1984-85	578	32.3%	1975	100	396	37.2
Change '80-'84	-18.5%		+3.6%		-36.7%	

The black male population at traditionally black colleges, with the exception of Morehouse, an all-male institution, dropped across the board. In light of the fact that over 90% of the black men enrolled in private four-year schools and over 60% of those enrolled in all four-year colleges in metropolitan Atlanta attend these institutions, this decline is a cause for serious concern.

Black Male Enrollments and College Selectivity

One of the major questions posed by this study is, "are black men concentrated in any one type of institution or are they evenly distributed throughout the higher educational system?" The Carnegie Commission ranks higher education institutions into five categories: research universities, doctoral granting universities, comprehensive universities and colleges, liberal arts colleges, and two-year institutions. Each category, except for two-year schools, is further divided into Level I and Level II, with Level I representing the more selective schools of the category. (Southern was not included in the Carnegie Report and Kennesaw did not become a senior school until the fall of 1978.)

Institutions of Higher Education in Metropolitan Atlanta
by the Carnegie Categories

Research Univ.	Doctoral Granting U.	Comprehensive Col & U.
Level I	Level I	Level I
None	Georgia State Univ.	None
Level II	Level II	Level II
Georgia Tech	None	Clark College
Emory		Morris Brown
		Southern Tech
		Kennesaw

Liberal Arts College	Two-Year Institutions
Level I	Atlanta Jr.
Agnes Scott	Clayton Jr.
Level II	
Mercer U. Atlanta	
Morehouse College	
Oglethorpe College	
Spelman College	

The vast majority of black males attending four-year colleges in the Atlanta metropolitan area were enrolled in Liberal Arts Level II colleges and Level II comprehensive institutions. An overwhelming number of these students attend traditionally black colleges. Of the students not enrolled in historically black private institutions, an average of 55% enroll at a doctoral granting university, Georgia State University. Between 1980 and 1984, however, the percentage of black males enrolled at this institution steadily declined.

III. Progression and Attrition at Public Four-Year Institutions, 1978-1986

Analysis of the complete data on the public colleges and universities in metropolitan Atlanta make it possible to examine closely how black men are faring on campus. A meaningful assessment of higher

education opportunity does not end with a student's admission to college. Remaining in school and graduating in a timely fashion are important criteria for measuring access to higher learning.

Our data on public four-year colleges in metropolitan Atlanta indicate that a high and increasing number of black males fail to advance through school at a normal rate and/or complete their education.

In 1978-79, over half of the black men enrolled at state schools in the Atlanta area advanced to the next grade or graduated; only 35% did so in 1986-87. During this period, the number of black males held back a grade in college increased 71% and their drop out rate more than doubled (127% rise). In other words, the number of black males failing to advance to the next grade or to graduate increased by over 98% between 1978 and 1986.

With the exception of seniors, the percentage of black men advancing from one grade to the next has declined across the board since 1978. The drop in the number of students progressing resulted from the increasing number of black males held back and dropping out of school. While the number of black male seniors held back between 1978 and 1986 decreased by 44%, the number of students failing during their first three years exploded. From 1978 to 1986, the number of freshmen failing to make regular progress increased by 165%, sophomores by 95% and juniors by 108%. A far smaller percentage could ever expect to become seniors.

Since 1978, the drop out rate among black males in their senior year fell 28% but increased 180% among first-year students, 146% for sophomores, and 104% for juniors.

In 1978-79, an average of 52% of the black men enrolled were held

back or dropped out during their first year of school. By 1986-87, this figure rose to 76%. Although the percentage of students held back and dropping out increased for all groups, the degree of change was most marked for black men.

The status of black men varied from institution to institution, but their position deteriorated on most campuses. The percentage of black males held back or dropping out during their first year in 1986-87 ranged from 45.1% at Georgia Institute of Technology and 72.5% at Southern Tech to 88.4% at Kennesaw College and 88.8% at Georgia State University. The percentage of black males held back or dropping out at Georgia Tech declined slightly, but increased by varying degrees at all of the other schools. By the same token, Kennesaw College was the only institution to experience a decrease in the percentage of sophomores and seniors held back or dropping out.

Between 1978 and 1986, the number of students advancing to the next grade level increased for all groups except black males who experienced a slight drop. Both the number and percentage of black males held back a grade and dropping out of public four-year colleges in metropolitan Atlanta have been high and are getting worse. For all other groups the numbers of students advancing within a year to each succeeding grade has increased by at least one fifth during this period. There has been no gain for black men.

Table 18

Number of Students Advancing to Next Grade Level in 1978-79 and 1986-87, by Race and Gender

	1978-79	1986-87	% Change
Black Males	486	484	- 0.4%
Black Females	456	547	+19.9
White Males	5910	7335	+24.1
White Females	2847	4193	+47.3

IV. Degree Attainment

The total number of students graduating from B.A. degree granting institutions in metropolitan Atlanta increased 26% between 1975 and 1984. During this period males consistently graduated at a higher rate than females, but this gap was rapidly closing. Whereas males received 62% of the Bachelor's degrees awarded in 1975, they accounted for only 55% of those given in 1984.

Graduation data on blacks, however, shows a different pattern. Between 1975 and 1984, black women not only graduated at a higher rate than black men, but the gap between them increased substantially. The decline in the number of black male B.A. recipients accounted for the total 12% drop in the number of black graduates from college from 1978 to 1984. Moreover, between 1980 and 1984, black males were the only group to experience a decline in the number of degrees received.

Figure 7 shows the total number of Bachelor degrees awarded in metropolitan Atlanta and the number of such degrees received by blacks.

[insert Figure 7]

From 1975 to 1978, the number of black men awarded Bachelor's degrees increased 27%, but then dropped 17% between 1978 and 1984. The largest decline (11%) occurred between 1980 and 1984. There was a net gain of 5% in the number of black men receiving Bachelor degrees between 1975 and 1984. In 1975, black men received 42% of the Bachelor's degrees attained by blacks, but in 1984, they were only 39% of the graduates.

Between 1978 and 1984, the percentage of black male Bachelor's degree recipients declined in all of the categories examined. The sharpest drop occurred in the black share of all degrees awarded to men.

Table 19

Bachelor Degree Attainment of Black Males
As a Percentage of Degrees Awarded by all Metro Atlanta Colleges

PERCENTAGE OF:	1975-76	1978-79	1980-81	1984-85
Total Degrees	7.7%	9.1%	7.5%	6.3%
Degrees to Males	12.6	15.7	13.3	11.4
Degrees to Blacks	42.3	41.2	42.0	38.9

Table 20 shows that between 1978 and 1985, the percentage of black male Bachelor's degree recipients declined in all of the categories examined. The sharpest drop occurred in the black share of all degrees awarded to men.

Table 20

Change in Proportion of B.A. Degrees Awarded to
Black Men, 1978-1984

	1978-79	1984-85	Change
Total Degrees	9.1%	6.3%	-2.8%
Degrees to Males	15.7	11.4	-4.3
Degrees to Blacks	41.2	38.9	-2.3

Between 1980 and 1984, the number of Bachelor's degrees received by black males dropped 13% at public institutions, 10% at all private schools, and 14% at private traditionally black colleges. An institution-by-institution study of degree attainment among black males shows that this decline was not uniform. The number of degrees awarded to black males increased 125% at Emory University while it declined by 98% at Morris Brown college. (HELP, JUNE: These percentages are deceptive, however, because the increase at Emory is based on X number of degrees,

while the decreases at Morris Brown are based on .....) Of the ten four-year institutions studied, the number of black males graduating between 1980 and 1984 fell at six of them. Black male degree attainment dropped at all public institutions except Kennesaw, at all but two of the private white schools, and at all but one of the traditionally black colleges.

The overwhelming majority of black men who receive Bachelor's degrees graduate from private traditionally black institutions. The declining male enrollment at these colleges has been a major reason for the drop in the number of black men awarded degrees in the Atlanta Metro area. Table 21 shows the number and percentage of black males awarded Bachelor's degrees by type of institution. Table 22 shows the percentage of black males enrolled in four-year colleges attending private traditionally black colleges and the percentage of degrees awarded to black males by those institutions.

Table 21
Number and Percentage of Black Males Awarded Bachelor's Degrees
By Type of Institution

	# 1975-76	%	# 1978-79	%	# 1980-81	%	# 1984-85	%
Public	98	23.7%	136	26.0%	143	29.3%	125	28.7%
Private	316	76.3	388	74.0	345	70.7	311	71.3
Pri Black	306	73.9	370	70.6	331	67.8	286	65.6

Table 22

Percentage of Black Males Enrolled and Graduating From Traditionally Black Colleges

	Enrolled All 4 Year	Degrees All 4 Year	Enrolled Private	Degrees Private
1975-76	68.2%	73.9%	96.6%	96.8%
1978-79	65.5	70.6	94.8	95.4
1980-81	66.6	67.8	95.5	95.9
1984-85	63.4	65.6	92.9	92.0

Among public colleges, the largest decline in black male degree attainment occurred at Georgia Institute of Technology. The number of black males receiving B.A. degrees from Georgia Tech dropped 26.8% between 1980 and 1984. The decline at Georgia State University was 4.3%, and it was 6.3% at Southern Technical Institute. The number of Bachelor's degrees awarded black men at Kennesaw increased 100% between 1980 and 1984; it went from one to two.

The percentage increases were large but the numbers small among private predominantly white universities. Emory University recorded a 125% increase and Mercer University registered a 66.7% gain. Only Oglethorpe University experienced a decline (33.3%) in the number of degrees awarded Black males.

The opposite trend was evident at private traditionally black colleges where the number of degrees awarded to black males declined by 13%. Morehouse College was the only private black school to experience an increase in the number of B.A.s awarded black males between 1980 and 1984. Morehouse, of course, draws a great many of its students from outside Georgia. Colleges serving local students, especially low income local

students were most vulnerable to the financial aid and other policy changes of the 1980s. During the same period, the number of black male recipients declined 98% at Morris Brown College and 4% at Clark College. In short, black colleges accounted for 77% of the overall decline in the number of Bachelor's degrees received by black men.

Conclusion

The situation of black men in the colleges and universities of metropolitan Atlanta has never been good and is becoming increasingly precarious. The consequences of a clear pattern of diminishing access to college and shrinking success within the higher education system are not difficult to understand. In an economy well into the post-industrial transition and in an urban area where new jobs are overwhelmingly either low-paying service jobs or high skill white collar jobs, college training will be critical to the success of the black men of metropolitan Atlanta and to the families that will not be formed or sustained if these men fail in the economy. College education is central to the dreams of advancement between the generations in American society and very clear signs in this data show that the dream is withering. Educators, leaders of the black community, and all who are concerned about the future of the metropolitan Atlanta community must attempt to understand the dynamics of a cycle of diminishing opportunity for black men that our project is finding in many areas -- in the high schools, in the colleges, in job training, and on the job. Nothing is more important for the future of the black community and for the development of a community of growing aspirations and achievements

than finding ways to counter this syndrome of diminished access at each level and within each institution. A pattern like that reflected in the college access and graduation statistics presented here has many causes and roots that go far into the past. A many-sided and sustained effort will be needed to reverse it for the future.

APPENDICES

Table A-1

Application to Public Two- and Four-year Institutions of Higher Education in Metropolitan Atlanta From First Time Students

	Black Males	Black Females	White Males	White Females
1978-79	1157	1141	5953	2109
1980-81	1053	1171	6686	3399
1982-83	885	1141	5785	3505
1984-85	1100	1530	5474	3152
1985-86	1113	1626	5784	3417
1986-87	1246	1783	6579	3786

Table A-2

Acceptance Rates at State Two- and Four-year Colleges in Metropolitan Atlanta by Race and Gender

	Black Males	Black Females	White Males	White Females
1978-79	52.5%	64.2%	65.0%	75.9%
1980-81	46.1	51.0	64.3	77.0
1982-83	52.0	62.2	74.7	84.0
1984-85	54.1	59.3	80.0	85.8
1985-86	55.4	56.3	77.5	81.6
1986-87	55.9	61.1	73.0	81.0

Table A-3

Applications from Black Men, 1978-1986

	Number to Junior Colleges	% of all college applications
1978-79	180	15.5%
1980-81	228	21.7
1982-83	183	20.7
1984-85	404	36.7
1985-86	370	33.2
1986-87	373	30.0

Table A-4

Acceptance Rate of First Time Students at Public Junior Colleges by Race and Gender

	Black Males	Black Females	White Males	White Females
1978-79	88.8%	89.0%	85.1%	79.2%
1980-81	75.4	76.4	89.6	86.5
1982-83	72.7	82.0	90.2	86.0
1984-85	49.0	64.5	98.8	98.7
1985-86	57.3	61.8	90.4	88.2
1986-87	60.9	64.5	86.4	85.1

Table A-5

Black Male Application Numbers and Acceptance Rates
Public Four-Year Colleges in Metropolitan Atlanta, 1978-1986

	Georgia Tech		Southern Tech		Georgia State		Kennesaw College	
1978-79	702	38.0%	42	81.0%	233	63.0%	2	50.0%
1980-81	530	27.3	65	84.6	217	48.4	13	61.5
1982-83	368	39.1	75	53.3	242	55.0	17	58.8
1984-85	265	52.8	140	51.4	272	56.3	19	84.2
1985-86	267	53.2	137	54.0	316	53.8	23	82.6
1986-87	352	44.9	122	56.6	378	60.1	21	76.2

Table A-6

Number of Applicants and Acceptance Rate for Black Males at Public Four-Year Institutions In Metropolitan Atlanta

	Applicants	Accepted	Rate
1978-79	979	448	45.8%
1980-81	825	313	37.9
1982-83	702	327	46.6
1984-85	696	381	54.7
1985-86	743	405	54.5
1986-87	873	470	53.8

When accepted by a local college most Georgia black men will matriculate. Table A-7 shows the acceptance/enrollment rate for black males by their geographic origin.

Table A-7

Acceptance/Enrollment Rate of Black Male Recent High School Graduates at Two- and Four-year State Colleges

	Out of State		From Georgia	
	Accepted	%Enrolled	Accepted	%Enrolled
1978-79	217	36.9%	389	65.0%
1980-81	159	35.2	326	63.2%
1982-83	95	47.4	365	79.5%
1984-85	95	46.3	484	59.7%
1985-86	110	38.2	507	60.0%

1986-87	164	39.0	537	54.6%

Table A-8

Acceptance/Enrollment Rate for Black Male

Recent High School Graduates at Public Colleges

	Two-Year Colleges	Four-Year Colleges
1978-79	72.2%	48.8%
1980-81	46.5	58.1
1982-83	92.5	64.8
1984-85	47.5	62.7
1985-86	50.9	58.8
1986-87	53.7	49.4

Table A-9

Undergraduate Enrollment at Public Four-Year Colleges

in Metropolitan Atlanta by Race and Gender

	Black Males	Black Females	White/Other Males	White/Other Females	Hispanic Males	Hispanic Females
1975-76	1170	1331	13637	6645	97	28
1978-79	1393	1644	13941	7097	141	46
1980-81	1472	1938	15347	9244	173	92
1984-85	1477	2043	16002	10632	266	185

Table A-10

Total Bachelor's Degrees Awarded In Metro Atlanta

and Bachelor's Degree Attainment by Blacks and Gender

	1975-76	1978-79	1980-81	1984-85
Males	3311	3333	3682	3828
Females	2060	2449	2861	3139
Black Males	414	524	488	436
Black Females	565	749	674	684

Table A-11

Black Male Acceptance Rate at Two-Year

and Four-Year Institutions in Metro Atlanta

	Two-Year	Four-Year
1978-79	88.8%	45.9%
1980-81	75.4	37.7
1982-83	72.7	46.6
1984-85	49.0	54.7
1985-86	57.3	54.5
1986-87	60.9	53.8

Table A-12 shows the percentage of black males enrolled at public four-year colleges who advanced to the next grade level between 1978 and 1986 with rate of change.

Table A-12

Percentage of Black Males Enrolled at Public Four-Year Colleges
Who Advanced to Next Grade Level, 1978-1986

	1st-2nd	2nd-3rd	3rd-4th	4th-Grad	Total
1978-79	48.2%	60.5%	55.8%	39.8%	51.2%
1980-81	38.5	42.3	49.1	23.9	39.0
1982-83	41.1	51.6	62.7	45.2	49.5
1985-86	26.3	38.6	46.5	33.4	34.8
1986-87	23.8	38.6	42.6	34.6	33.0
Change	-24.4%	-21.9%	-13.2%	- 5.2%	-18.2%

Table A-13 shows the number and percentage of black males held back at each grade level at public four-year colleges in metropolitan Atlanta from 1978 to 1987.

Table A-13
Number and Percentage of Black Males Held Back
Each year by Grade Level, 1978-87

	Freshmen	%	Sophomores	%	Juniors	%	Seniors	%
1978-79	80	24.5%	37	16.2%	38	18.4%	86	45.0%
1980-81	82	31.9	48	27.4	42	25.5	40	29.0
1982-83	54	25.8	36	22.6	31	20.7	45	36.3
1984-85	185	33.8	65	21.2	80	23.3	129	38.2
1986-87	212	35.0	72	21.9	79	24.2	48	37.9

Table A-14 shows the number and percentage of black males who dropped out at each grade level.

Table A-14

Total Number and Percentage of Black Male Dropouts by Grade Level

	Freshmen	%	Sophomores	%	Juniors	%	Seniors	%
1978-79	89	27.3%	53	23.2%	53	25.7%	29	15.2%
1980-81	76	29.6	53	30.3	42	25.5	65	47.1
1980-81	69	33.0	41	25.8	25	16.7	23	18.5
1985-86	219	40.0	123	40.2	104	30.2	95	28.1
1986-87	249	41.2	130	39.5	108	33.1	100	27.5

Table A-15 compares the percentage of students held back and dropping out from 1978 to 1986.

Table A-15

Percentage of Students Held Back or Dropping Out
1978 to 1986, by Race and Gender

Black Males	1978-79	1985-86	Change
1st-2nd	51.8%	76.2%	+24.4
2nd-3rd	39.5	61.4	+21.9
3rd-4th	44.2	57.4	+13.2
4th-Grad	60.2	65.4	+ 5.2
Black Females			
1st-2nd	59.4%	73.6%	+14.2%
2nd-3rd	48.4	60.2	+11.8
3rd-4th	39.6	60.6	+21.0
4th-Grad	67.0	68.4	+ 1.4
White Males			
1st-2nd	46.2%	62.1%	+15.9
2nd-3rd	33.7	40.3	+ 6.6
3rd-4th	30.2	36.5	+ 6.3
4th-Grad	44.2	47.0	- 2.8
White Females			
1st-2nd	44.9%	65.4%	+20.5
2nd-3rd	39.0	44.6	+ 5.6
3rd-4th	30.1	40.0	+ 9.9
4th-Grad	55.3	54.8	- .5

Table A-16 shows the percentage of black males who did not progress to the next grade level as a result of being held back or dropping out.

Table A-16
Percentage of Black Males Held Back or Dropping Out of College
1978-1986, by Level and Institution

YEAR	1st-2nd	2nd-3rd	3rd-4th	4th-Grad
		Georgia State University		
1978	50.7%	43.7%	43.2%	65.8%
1980	78.4	67.4	64.4	68.5
1982	62.5	60.5	46.0	67.2
1985	82.0	65.9	64.5	76.3
1986	88.8	70.2	61.7	76.5
		Georgia Institute of Technology		
1978	46.3%	27.9%	41.2%	31.6%
1980	48.8	40.0	38.9	100.0
1982	39.7	26.9	19.7	42.9
1985	50.0	42.9	34.8	43.5
1986	45.1	44.4	45.0	46.9
		Kennesaw College		
	(Did not become senior institution until fall of 1978)			
1980	55.6%	85.7%	66.7%	100.0%
1982	85.7	40.0	0.0	33.3
1985	78.6	64.3	33.3	57.1
1986	88.4	38.5	80.0	50.0
		Southern Institute of Technology		
1978	61.5%	43.8%	53.8%	35.7%
1980	72.7	72.3	51.6	52.4
1982	68.9	59.4	60.6	44.4
1985	78.1	67.7	59.5	53.5
1986	72.5	64.1	51.4	51.4